

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 20, and ending on page 15, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 8 is a flowchart of the second decision means (S104 in Fig. 4). First, a variable i is reset to one for initialization (S1046), wherein i has a value of 1, 2, ..., n . Next, as to the input image data of i -th pixel, it is decided whether R-G, G-B and R-B satisfy following conditions (S1047).

$$\begin{aligned} R - G_{\min} &\leq R_i - G_i \leq R - G_{\max}, \\ G - B_{\min} &\leq G_i - B_i \leq G - B_{\max}, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

and

$$R - B_{\min} \leq R_i - B_i \leq R - B_{\max}.$$

If these conditions are not satisfied, the i -th pixel is deleted from the specified color candidates as noise (S1048). Next, i is incremented (S1049), and if the data processing have not yet been completed on all the pixels (NO at step S1050), the flow returns to step S1047 to repeat the above-mentioned steps.